



AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

November 1994
Volume 3, Number 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What can the American Fisheries Society (AFS) do for you? This is a question that has been asked rhetorically by many AFS officers in many newsletter columns. Herein I'd like to give you my spin on this persistent question. AFS is my primary professional organization. To me, the goal of a professional organization is to help each of us to do our job better, i.e. more efficiently and more effectively. AFS can promote this professionalism in several ways. First, AFS provides an opportunity to meet and interact with colleagues. AFS advances us towards this goal by sponsoring chapter meetings twice a year as well as by organizing a variety of other professional gatherings. Second, AFS provides an opportunity for the exchange of technical information. AFS serves this purpose by hosting chapter, division, and national meetings and by publishing technical journals. Third, AFS provides an avenue for continuing education. We live in rapidly changing world in which it is difficult to keep up on new skills. AFS can help us with this issue by sponsoring workshops and continuing education classes. Fourth, AFS provides a superstructure through which we as fisheries professionals can communicate information to the public and legislators.

I hope to promote all of these goals in the next year. As president, I will encourage the Program Development Committee to continue to organize exciting chapter meetings. At these meetings, I hope the organizers can address both cutting edge technical issues and provide a forum for philosophical discussions about the

appropriate roles for researchers, managers, educators, and administrators in a rapidly changing world. In addition, I hope at these meetings we can continue to make time to informally establish and reestablish important working relationships. I also would like for the chapter to sponsor technical workshops on subjects of interest to AFS members in this region which will be open to all chapter members. To this end, I have started to explore the possibility of setting up workshops on the following topics: new techniques for quantifying age and growth, individual based modeling, computer programs that allow us to experimentally test the effect of harvest regulations, stream channel classification and modification, conflict resolution, meeting facilitation, ecosystem management, and electrofishing efficiency and safety. These workshops should allow us all, in some way, to update our technical expertise.

The question of what responsibility we as fisheries professionals have, to speak for, and defend the resource, has arisen frequently in the last few years. I think we all agree that fisheries professionals need to facilitate the transfer of accurate technical information about fisheries issues to the public and to legislators. In this sense, we all believe that we should be advocates and activists for the wise use, management, and conservation of the fisheries resource. Hence, the question is not if we should speak for the resource. Instead the question with which many of us are wrestling is how do we act as advocates or activists for the resource in a way that does not compromise our objectivity and credibility or divide us as a

professional group. No easy standard answer to this dilemma exists; we as a chapter need to work out at which level of advocacy we as a group feel comfortable. I personally hope that we can move forward on this issue in a way that serves the resource but which also allows us to remain united under a single professional umbrella. Specifically, I hope we can all continue to feel that we benefit from and, in turn, provide benefits for the Southern New England Chapter of the American Fisheries Society.

- Martha Mather, President,
Southern New England

Chapter

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SNEC 1994 SUMMER MEETING

The 1994 summer meeting of the Southern New England Chapter was held on June 8, 1994 at the Narragansett Bay Campus of the University of Rhode Island in Narragansett, RI with approximately 55 Chapter members in attendance. The annual business meeting was held during the meeting, and minutes are provided as an attachment to this newsletter.

The morning session included two invited speakers on the general topic of advocacy. AFS Executive Director Paul Brouha spoke on the Fisheries Action Network (FAN) as a model to provide issue-oriented science-based information to the public. He explained the Society EXCOM's vision for the FAN, the goals to attain, the role of the subunit (e.g., SNEC), and opportunities provided for communicating within and outside the membership. Dale Burkett, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, East Lansing, MI spoke on the role of the AFS Illinois Chapter in the cooperative effort to develop new funding

Chapter President Martha Mather (right) presents Linda Bireley a Past President Certificate at the June 1994 meeting.

strategies for fish and wildlife management. The culmination of this initiative was many fold: 1) forming new coalitions with the diverse conservation organizations acting within Illinois; 2) allocation of over \$5 million of new funding for the management of fisheries resources in the state; and 3) the potential allocation of additional \$50 million over three years for the protection and management of fish and wildlife habitat.

The afternoon included a mini-session on risk assessment and an open paper session. The mini-session featured three invited speakers from the Food and Drug Administration, the CT Department of Health and Addictive

Services, and the CT Department of Environmental Protection. The session focused on how risk assessments are made, the implications for fisheries management and public use of the resource, and consequences for minority peoples, subsistence users and non-English speaking peoples. The open paper session included presentations on nuclear power station impacts on winter flounder, the distribution of riffle insects in Connecticut

streams, and an evaluation of a modified aquatic resources education program for fifth grade students.

- Rick Jacobson

ADVOCACY

At the June 1994 business meeting, Linda Bireley, Paul Brouha, and Dale Burkett led a discussion on advocacy and activism. No universally accepted program of action was agreed upon by the participants; however, many opinions were expressed. Some of the most often repeated sentiments follow:

- (1) Some suggested that the Chapter should put forward well-informed, well-justified, scientifically-based position statements on fisheries issues.
- (2) Also in support of activism, several members suggested that we can no longer stay insulated in our own narrow technical sphere and ignore public opinion and policy. These members suggested that we need to strategize on

ways to convey complex information to the public and policy-makers in a clear, straightforward way if we are to maintain our funding base.

- (3) However, some attendees suggested that the low attendance at the summer meeting indicated that many members of SNEC-AFS are not especially interested in the advocacy/activism issue.
- (4) Similarly, many members were concerned that an active lobbyist role for the Chapter may jeopardize our professional objectivity.
- (5) Some members were concerned that moving too fast on this issue might encourage position statements to be issued in the name of the Chapter which they personally had not seen, voted on, or approved.
- (6) In conclusion, the Chapter membership appeared to be interested in looking into the operational details of how advocacy/activism might work at the SNEC level. The final recommendation was to form a committee to investigate how the Chapter could become more involved in the Fisheries Action Network (FAN) and other types of fisheries activism. Position statements prepared by this committee could then be reviewed and voted on by the Chapter membership. Once approved, the position statements could be issued in the Chapter name.

Since the June meeting, the SNEC Board of Directors has met to discuss these and other issues. First, we decided to move cautiously and carefully forward on the activism/advocacy issue. We voted to send a letter to the gubernatorial candidates of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut to make them aware of the presence and purpose of AFS and, in a general way, to offer future technical assistance on southern New England fisheries issues. Should these or other legislators contact

the Chapter for further information, we voted to distribute the Chapter membership/area of expertise document being prepared by the Environmental Affairs Committee. Members who do not want their name to be on this list of contacts for the media and legislators should get in touch with Penny Howell, Connecticut DEP (203-434-6043). If contacted, we encourage SNEC-AFS members to clarify that they do not officially speak for the Chapter, but, in their own name, they might be able to provide technical clarification. Any thoughts on this new policy would be welcome; if you have an opinion, contact Martha Mather (413-545-4895). Second, we asked Ruth Haas-Castro to act as our Fisheries Action Network (FAN) manager. Together with the Environmental Affairs Committee, Ruth will start to examine how we as a chapter can facilitate the exchange of technical information between fisheries professionals and the public.

- Martha Mather

SNEC DECEMBER MEETING AHEAD

The next meeting of the Southern New England Chapter will be December 14, 1994 at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT. The agenda includes a mini-session with Dr. Jack Pearce moderating three presenters on fisheries habitat issues. There will be at least seven other papers on a variety of marine, anadromous and freshwater fisheries topics. We expect to have an expanded lunch hour with an opportunity for socializing and viewing the Killing Tide video produced by CNN.

The first call for papers has gone out and you should be receiving the registration packet shortly. Student presenters will be eligible for both the \$50 best paper award and Chapter sponsorship of the application for AFS Associate Fisheries Scientist certification (a \$100 value). Contact: Rick Jacobson, CT DEP Fisheries Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127, 203-424-3474.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

The Program Development Committee is currently in the process of helping to formulate the program for the winter 1994 Chapter meeting. We are working closely with Jack Pearce, NMFS Woods Hole, who is organizing a mini-session focusing on the cumulative effects of development relative to fisheries habitat management.

The Committee welcomes new members: Chris Powell - RI Division of Fish, Wildlife and Estuarine Resources, Richard Hartley - MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and Tim Barry - CT Fisheries Division. With the addition of these new members, the committee is now represented by all SNEC states having expertise in inland, estuarine and marine fisheries.

The Committee is planning to meet in November to discuss new initiatives and determine minisession themes for 1995. As always, your

vote counts! Please feel free to suggest any topics of interest or potential speakers you would like to hear at upcoming meetings. For your convenience, a form for your input is attached to this newsletter. Pass along any suggestions or complaints to Brian Murphy, Committee Chair at 203-344-2115.

- Brian Murphy

CHAPTER AWARDS

Eric Smith and **Don Flescher** were each awarded Certificates of Recognition at the June 1994 business meeting for their efforts on behalf of the Chapter in developing a long-range plan and creating a Board of Directors, respectively.

Paul Spencer was awarded the best student paper award for his presentation at the December 1993 meeting, "Application of a stochastic predator-prey model to Pacific hake and Pacific herring of Vancouver Island."

Eric Smith receives Chapter Certificate of Recognition from Linda Bireley at the June 1994 meeting.

MEMBER NEWS/MIGRATIONS

Wally Whitworth retired from the faculty of the University of Connecticut and is residing in Tucson, Arizona. Recently joining the UCONN faculty in the fisheries area is **Rob Neumann**. Rob has been an active member of AFS in the Midwest and we look forward to his involvement in our chapter programs.

Another warm Chapter welcome to **Blake Weirich** who recently joined the staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Aid Division in Hadley, MA. He comes from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission with 22 years of experience as a district fisheries manager, aquatic resources education coordinator, and agency planner.

Former SNEC Best Student Paper Award winner **Ken Sprankle** now works for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as a fishery biologist in the Keene regional office.

Several longtime NMFS Woods Hole employees who are SNEC members have retired or will shortly. These include **Vaughn Anthony**, **Marvin Grosslein**, and **Herbert Stern**. Best wishes to all!

Eleanor Mariani is now Program Supervisor in the Office of Boating in the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

Mark Gibson is heading up a new stock assessment unit within the Rhode Island Division of Fish, Wildlife and Estuarine Resources.

Fred Serchuk is now Chief of the Conservation and Utilization Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, MA.

The Yankee Clipper Council of the Boy Scouts of America will present its Distinguished Citizen Award to **Ken Beal** at the State

Representative's Breakfast for Scouting on November 18 in Gloucester.

New regular AFS members in the SNEC area since publication of the last newsletter (April-September 1994) are:

Ronald C. Baird - Worcester, MA
Jack Buckley - Boston, MA
Mary A. Colligan - Gloucester, MA
Ramon Conser - Falmouth, MA
Frances Juanes - Amherst, MA
Gregory Morris - Marshfield, MA
Steven Murawski - Woods Hole, MA
Mufeed Odeh - Turners Falls, MA
Anthony E. Pepe - East Haven, CT
Richard B. Pollnac - Saundertown, RI
Pierre E. Provost - Westwood, MA
John T. Sackton - Lexington, MA

New student members since the last newsletter are:

Gabriel Gries - Deep River, CT
David A. Mann - Woods Hole, MA
Mathew O'Donnell - Gales Ferry, CT
Alberto Ortiz - Amherst, MA
Kevin Whalen - Amherst, MA

AFS TO MEET IN HARTFORD IN 1998

Hartford, CT has been selected as the site of the 1998 annual AFS meeting. Our Chapter, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and Northeast Utilities will join with the Hartford Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Riverfront Recapture to host the meeting. Chapter members Ernie Beckwith (CT DEP) and Linda E. Bireley (NU) will serve as Co-Chairs of the event. They have received detailed guidelines for running a successful meeting from the Parent Society. These guidelines suggest establishing an Arrangements Committee comprised of leaders of various subcommittees: Accommodations and Housing; Registration; Budget and Finance; Fund Raising; Banquet; Social Activities and Entertainment; Program and Printing; Publicity; Exhibits and

Displays; Tours, Transportation and Information; Welcoming and Protocol; and Signs and Posters. Between now and early 1996, Ernie and Linda will be recruiting volunteers to fill these leadership positions and to serve on the subcommittees. If you have any ideas (particularly about entertainment), would like more information about any of the Subcommittee positions, or would be interested in helping to put on the best annual meeting in Hartford since 1927, contact either Ernie Beckwith, CT DEP, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127, 203-566-2277 or Linda Bireley, NU, P.O. Box 270, Hartford, CT 06141-0270, 203-665-5448.

- Linda Bireley

LANDMARK HYDRO AGREEMENT

A \$27 million agreement was reached recently between 12 public and private environmental groups and the New England Power Company (NEP) to protect the Deerfield River watershed of western Massachusetts and southern Vermont. The first of its kind in the northeast, and only the second in the nation, the agreement commits NEP to enhance recreation, fisheries and conservation along the Deerfield River. In return, NEP will have the support of environmental and recreation groups and government agencies in its effort to renew a 40-year license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate NEP's Deerfield River Hydroelectric Project. The project comprises eight developments along a 65 mile stretch of the Deerfield River.

Under the agreement NEP will: provide minimum flows and reservoir management to protect aquatic habitat; install, operate and maintain certain recreation facilities on its lands and assure public access to NEP lands adjacent to the Deerfield for recreation; assure releases of water from two of its dams at agreed upon times to provide for whitewater recreation; install fish passage facilities at various sites along the river; implement a program of wildlife

enhancements within the project boundary; establish a Deerfield River Environmental Enhancement Trust Fund to finance conservation and education projects; grant to land management organizations conservation easements on more than 17,000 acres of land NEP owns to help preserve the land in its natural state.

Although FERC is not obligated to accept the agreement, it is expected to carry substantial weight in expediting the licensing process. The Deerfield River settlement agreement, according to the parties, demonstrates the ability of diverse interests to come together in good faith to balance environmental quality, recreation, fisheries, energy production and other values served by America's rivers.

CT RIVER MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION

Four River Corridor Management Program proposals (stream buffers, restoration of rivers, protected rivers, and multiple use of rivers), recommended by the Rivers Advisory Committee (RAC), were submitted to the General Assembly in February as part of the Department of Environmental Protection's legislative package. Two of these bills were enacted into law: Raised Bill No. 5758 - An Act Concerning Protected Rivers and House Bill No. 5267 - An Act Concerning Fees for Resource Restoration and Enhancement of Tidal Wetlands and Funding for River Restoration.

The protected rivers legislation is modeled after the national wild and scenic rivers act, and is intended to provide a strong level of protection for a few rivers with unique natural, cultural, recreational and scenic resources. This new law requires DEP to develop a list of rivers which are candidates for the protected rivers program based on a statewide rivers assessment, and provides for a public hearing on the draft list. The program is intended to be

Don Flescher receives Chapter Certificate of Recognition from Linda Bireley at the June 1994 meeting.

locally based and locally initiated, providing for the formulation of a committee to carry out the stated purpose and the development and approval of a management plan. The committee will include, in addition to towns who control land uses along rivers, representation of those who control water rights, those with key interests along the river and professionals in engineering and natural resources management who can help craft alternative solutions. Existing land and water uses in the designated river corridors are grandfathered, and new uses which are consistent with the management plan are allowed.

The river restoration legislation creates a river restoration account within the existing Clean Water Fund and reallocates up to \$3 million from the Clean Water Fund to the new account for river restoration activities. This money will allow the DEP to provide grants to municipalities for site specific restoration projects in areas where degradation has occurred, provide grants to local river communities for planning under the protected rivers bill, and provide for staff to administer the rivers program. The types of

projects envisioned to be completed using the restoration account are relatively small and inexpensive, but will complement the gains realized over the past 25 years of Clean Water Program implementation. Possible site specific projects which can be accomplished under this program are: replanting of riparian vegetation, site improvements associated with riverfront recreational projects, and efforts to restore historic river-related structures or sites for public use and enjoyment.

DEP plans to pursue passage of the remaining elements of the river corridor management program (buffers and multiple use management) during the 1995 legislative session. For additional information, contact Elaine Hinsch or Darcy Winthur at 203-566-5191.

- Rivers, A Publication of CT's River Mgmt. Program, Vol. V, No. 2, Spring 1994

CT FISHERIES TASK FORCE

The Connecticut Department of Environmental

Protection, Fisheries Division is currently undertaking a public outreach initiative unprecedented in the state. The initiative, labeled the Fisheries Task Force, is intended to involve the public in the development of solutions to problems facing fisheries management in Connecticut into the next century. The task force is comprised of over 50 members representing freshwater and marine anglers, commercial fishermen, commercial fishing industries (e.g., bait and tackle stores, Connecticut Marine Trades Association), resource conservation organizations (including the AFS Southern New England Chapter), academia, government, lobbyists and the media.

The first of four meetings was held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Cromwell, CT. The meeting was devoted to welcoming the participants, description of the process, task force member and Division support staff introductions, descriptions of current Division programs, a brief presentation of problems and issues identified by Division staff, and brainstorming sessions on task force member expectations. Brainstorming sessions were conducted in small breakout groups led by facilitators. Discussions were highly charged and all ideas were included in the transcripts of the meeting. These will be used to measure the success of the initiative as the process comes to a close and final recommendations are made.

Subsequent meetings will be dedicated to: 1) identifying and prioritizing problems and issues; 2) analyzing problems and issues; and 3) developing recommendations to combat these problems and issues. These "products" will be used by the Division in developing program priorities, implementation and support efforts.

The issues and problems identified by the Division were grouped into four categories: 1) public awareness and outreach; resource access; 3) resource conservation; and 4) fiscal. Although the task force will not be bound to these categories, they are provided as a template

from which the task force members might develop their own series of issues and problems.

It is anticipated that the entire process will be completed by the end of December 1994. The second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3 at the DEP offices in Hartford.

NORTHEAST FISHING INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE

Under provisions of Public Law 103-211, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1994, \$30 million has been provided to the U.S. Department of Commerce to address the needs of those directly affected by the decline of the traditional fisheries in the northeast. Of the total package, \$18 million will be used by the Economic Development Administration to provide economic adjustment assistance to communities, and \$12 million will be used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for direct industry assistance in the form of: 1) loan guarantees under the Fisheries Obligation Guarantee Program to help restructure existing debt; 2) grants to assist the fishing industry which has been affected by the decline of the traditional groundfish and scallop fisheries; and 3) Fishing Family Assistance Centers in the northeast to serve as clearinghouses for all possible assistance available from Federal and state sources.

Of the \$12 million NOAA will administer, up to \$4.5 million in grants will be awarded to meet the most pressing needs of fishermen who require assistance in developing alternative employment or new business opportunities. Another \$4.5 million will be awarded to assist the northeast fishing industry to expand the harvesting, processing and marketing of underutilized species; to increase the value of species currently harvested; to address bycatch reduction; and to create new business and employment opportunities through aquaculture.

- Federal Register, July 8, 1994

NORTHEAST GROUND FISH WORKSHOP

A workshop to develop and assess alternative approaches to groundfish management in the northwest Atlantic is being planned by a steering committee of AFS subunit leaders. The proposed format will involve a limited number of invited participants including biological scientists, social scientists, industry representatives and other groups. Participants will define the problems, identify possible alternative approaches, assess the feasibility of these approaches, select and describe the most feasible approaches, and outline the process for further assessment of options. The committee has developed a proposal for funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and hopes to hold the workshop in April or May 1995. Contact John Boreman at 413-545-2842 or Bill Hyatt at 203-566-4477 for further information.

MASSACHUSETTS BRIEFS

The Massachusetts Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit has just completed a review for the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife of computer models for potential use in various Federal Aid projects. The review is titled "Computer models that predict the impact of harvest regulations on fish populations: a select review of the literature."

In April, Massachusetts joined 10 other states as part of the national 1-800-ASK-FISH telephone network that provides recreational fishing information to the public. The system provides information on all aspects of fishing, from where to buy a license to best bets for over twenty fish species. Since April, more than 55,000 calls have been made on the system.

Atlantic salmon counts in 1994 (through

September 30) were 261 at the Holyoke Dam on the Connecticut River and 21 at the Essex Dam on the Merrimack River. Similar counts of American shad were 181,288 at Holyoke Dam and 4,349 at Essex Dam and river herring were 31,993 at Holyoke Dam and 88,913 at Essex Dam.

Massachusetts ballot Question 8 proposes a change to the distribution of funding from the 21 cents per gallon state excise tax on gasoline. Currently, 1.40 percent of the tax (approximately \$600K), representing the portion of fuels used for watercraft, is distributed to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Division of Marine Fisheries, the Public Access Fund, the Environmental Law Enforcement Fund, and the Harbors and Inland Waters Maintenance Fund. If Question 8 passes, these funds will no longer be earmarked for these environmental funds, but will go to the general Highway Fund for transportation purposes.

In the most recent edition of DMF NEWS, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries provided excellent summaries of projects funded through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. The figure on the next page, that was included in that newsletter, illustrates the biological and geographical diversity of work in progress.

SANDWICH HATCHERY REOPENS

The Sandwich State Trout Hatchery of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife began operations again in early October following a two year renovation project. The renovations were ordered after severe damage by Hurricane Bob and a failure of the main production well within a few months of each other revealed the weakness of the existing well system and back-up power supply of the 80 year old facility. The hatchery now has four wells on line that will provide ample and redundant supply of water for raising trout, including the

original strain of the famous Sandwich browns. In addition, the hatchery has been equipped with an entirely new water distribution system, emergency power generating system, and a state-of-the-art alarm system.

The hatchery's aging concrete raceways have also been completely restored by a group of volunteer senior citizens that call themselves the "old geezer brigade." The geezers have worked tirelessly for nearly two years plying their craft and now have the hatchery looking young again. Their efforts have been recognized with a special commendation from Governor Weld that was presented to them at a gathering held in their honor by Director MacCallum and Commissioner Phillips.

- Ken Simmons

MASHPEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROPOSED

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed the establishment of Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge on Cape Cod, MA. The refuge would include approximately 2,600 acres of land in the town of Mashpee and approximately 600 acres in Falmouth. The proposed boundary encompasses an area around the Waquoit Bay watershed. A Draft Environmental Assessment on land protection and management of the proposed refuge has been released and is available for public review and comment until November 21. Copies of the Draft EA may be obtained at the Falmouth and Mashpee Town Halls or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035-9589.

FLATFISH BIOLOGY WORKSHOP

The 1994 Flatfish Biology Workshop will be held on December 6-7 at the Best Western Sovereign Hotel (formerly Ramada Inn) in Mystic, CT. The workshop is co-sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service and Northeast Utilities. Thirty-four papers and nine posters have been accepted for the meeting, with authors hailing from Nova Scotia to South Carolina along the Atlantic and Alaska to British Columbia on the Pacific. Most presentations, however, deal with studies conducted in Southern New England and other nearby states. Flatfishes ranging from tonguefish to winter flounder will be discussed. The registration fee of \$43 will include a mixer and two buffet lunches. Single-day registration fees of \$27 (December 6) and \$16 (December 7) will also be available. If you are not already on the mailing list for this program, an announcement including the tentative program with list of titles and a registration form may be obtained by writing: Dr. Anthony Calabrese, National Marine Fisheries Service, 212 Rogers Avenue, Milford, CT 06460.

- Don Danila

CT FINAL REPORTS AVAILABLE

Final reports are available for the following studies completed by the CT Department of Environmental Protection Fisheries Division:

Interactions of Brown Trout and Landlocked Alewife Populations in Connecticut Trophy Trout lakes and an Evaluation of Four Rainbow Trout Strains. Findings include: Brown trout stocked at lengths over 12 inches survived better than smaller fish despite being subject to greater exploitation rates. Return to the creel during the first two months of the season averaged 63.3%, whereas annual exploitation of large holdover trout was 29%. Trout stocked in the fall had low survival and contributed very little to the fishery. Annual survival of rainbow trout is poor

in Connecticut lakes. However, rainbows provided greater shore fishing opportunities and had overall return rates which were similar to brown trout.

Assessment of a Riverine Population of Smallmouth Bass in the Housatonic River.

Findings include: Age and growth of this slow growing bass population was best determined using otoliths. Backcalculated average lengths for ages 1-8 were 139, 178, 203, 224, 246, 264, 275 and 290 mm respectively. Annual survival was estimated for three stream sections using three methods. Rates (S) ranged from 0.48 to 0.75. Annual effort ranged from 25,599 - 42,367 angler hours and annual catch was between 35,500 - 45,000 bass. An average of 3,100 fish were creeled each year. A hooking mortality study was conducted and mortality rates of 5% (bait), 4% (lure) and 3% (fly) were determined.

Assessment of a Non-Migratory Strain of Rainbow Trout in the Housatonic River.

Findings include: Erwin strain rainbow trout were selected to be stocked into the Housatonic River Trout Management Area because they were reported to be temperature-tolerant and non-migratory. Spring stocked fingerlings (average length 132 mm) grew faster than brown trout but survived poorly. The low survival of fingerling rainbow trout was attributed primarily to predation by smallmouth bass. Rainbows stocked in the fall at a larger size (222 mm) also grew faster than brown trout and had 30 times the survival rate of fingerlings. Although survival was still less than brown trout, fall stocked rainbows were found to account for 50% of the total catch. Catch rates under management which included both brown trout and rainbow trout were greater than in prior years when the river was managed exclusively for brown trout.

Northern Pike (Esox lucius) Management in Bantam Lake. Findings include: Annual production from managed spawning marshes was 972 to 2,757 northern pike averaging 104 to

123 mm in length. A much larger number of fry were released into an extensive area of unmanaged marshes surrounding the lake. Total fishing effort by anglers seeking northern pike increased throughout the study from 3,500 angler hours in 1987 to over 10,100 hours in 1991. Northern pike catch increased from 175 to 2,737 fish per year. The ice fishery increased greatly in popularity despite regulations that prohibited the harvest of northern pike during the winter. Beginning in 1995, new regulations will go into effect which allow ice anglers to harvest one fish greater or equal to 36 inches per day.

Copies of any of these reports can be obtained by calling the CT DEP Fisheries Division Office at 203-566-4477.

- Bill Hyatt

SMALL PONDS PUBLICATION

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has published "Small Ponds in Connecticut: A Guide for Fisheries Management." Brian Murphy and Don Mysling are authors of this publication produced cooperatively through a Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration project and the Department's Publication Sales Office. It is available for sale at \$8.95, plus 6 percent sales tax and \$2.50 shipping from CT DEP Publication Sales Office, Room 555, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.

RI SEA GRANT PUBLICATION

A new Rhode Island Sea Grant publication, Vegetated Buffers in the Coastal Zone: A Summary Review and Bibliography, describes the characteristics, uses and benefits of vegetated buffers in protecting water bodies from nonpoint source pollution. Written by Alan Desbonnet, Pamela Pogue, Virginia Lee, and Nicholas Wolff, the 72-page publication explores the role of vegetated buffers in erosion and flood

control, wildlife habitat protection, and scenic enhancement, as well as pollutant removal. It also includes a state-by-state review of 23 coastal states' policies and programs for establishing vegetated buffers in the coastal zone, and a selected bibliography of pertinent papers, journal articles and reports. The book is available from the Rhode Island Sea Grant Communications Office, University of Rhode Island Bay Campus, Narragansett, RI 02882-1197. Cost is \$7, including postage and handling.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Since I've recently assumed the responsibilities as Secretary-Treasurer for the Chapter, this is the last newsletter under my editorship. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have served the Chapter in this capacity and for the articles submitted by many Chapter members over the last three years. I hope that there will be even better cooperation in providing news items to the new editor Dana Morse. Dana recently completed his Masters degree at the University of Rhode Island and is a NMFS Fisheries Specialist at the Fishing Family Assistance Center in New Bedford, MA. His address and phone numbers are:

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